

Why assess the stock status of the silky shark
in the eastern Pacific Ocean?

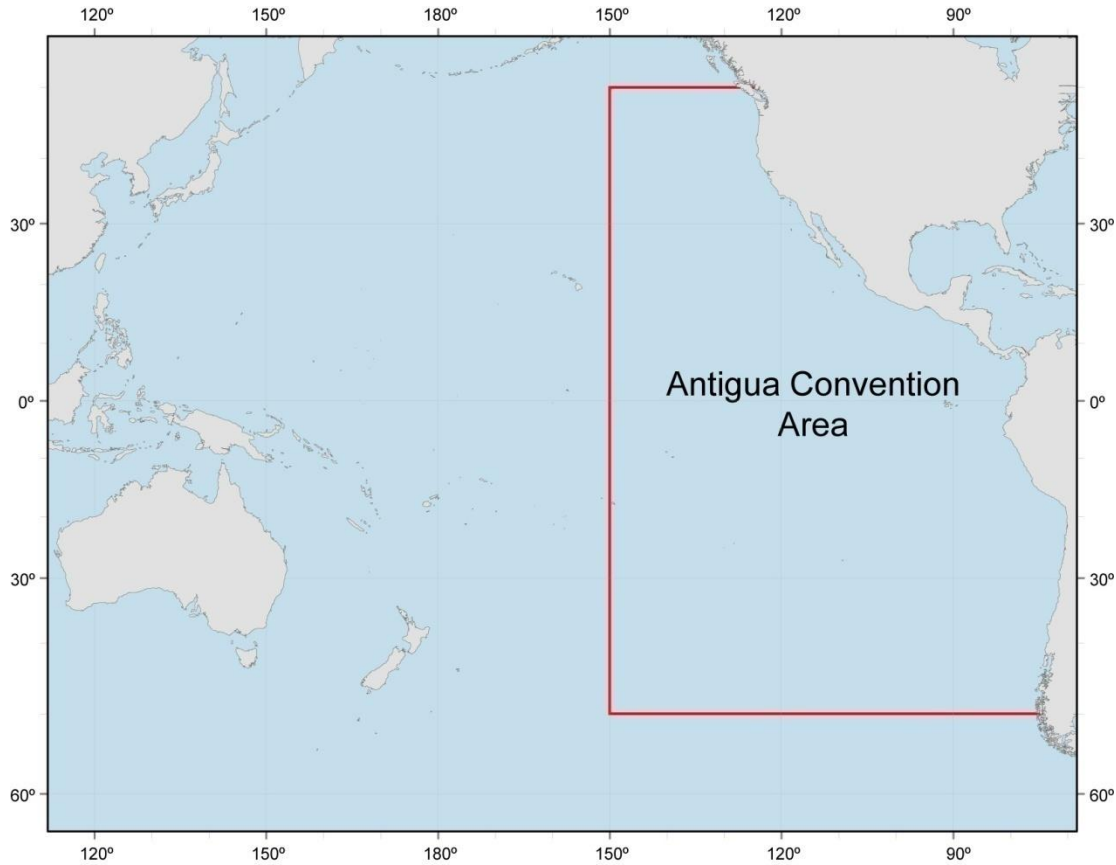


Antigua Convention and the IATTC

The Antigua Convention requires the IATTC to adopt, as necessary, conservation and management measures and recommendations for pelagic sharks belonging to the same ecosystem as tuna-like species exploited in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO).



Antigua Convention Area (EPO)

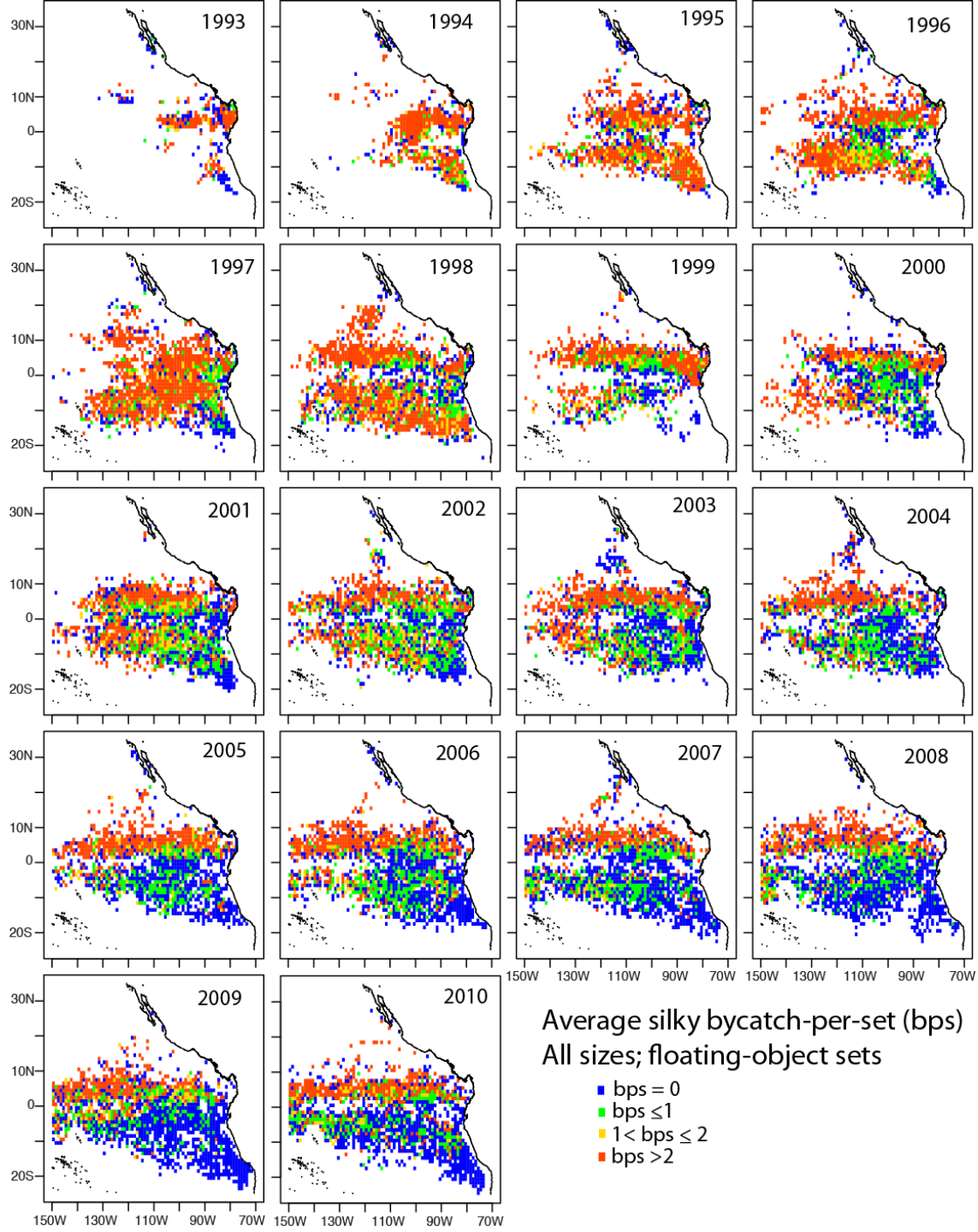


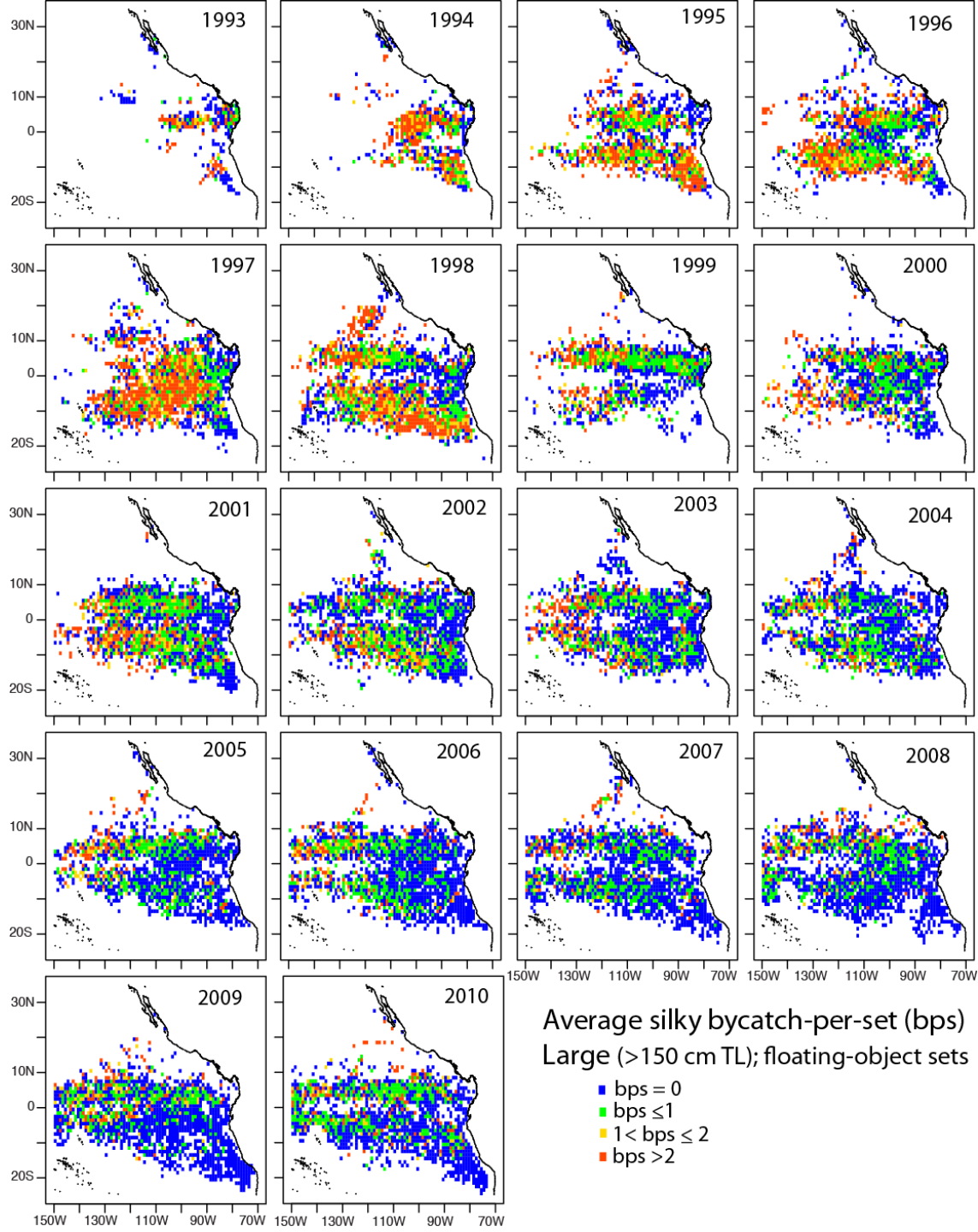
Species composition of observed purse-seine bycatch

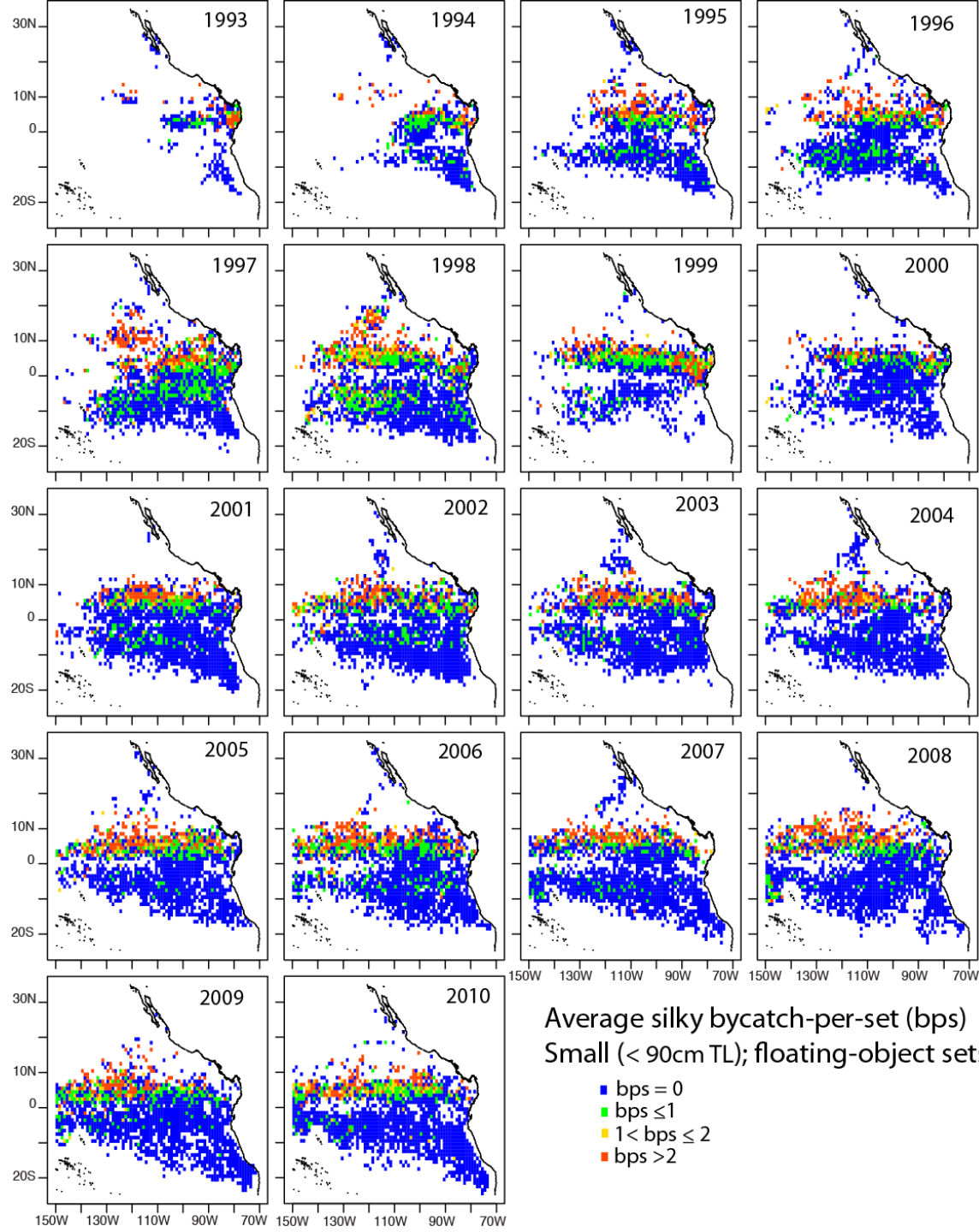
Species	%
<i>Alopias</i> sp. (thresher sharks)	1
<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i> (silky shark)	79
<i>C. longimanus</i> (oceanic whitetip shark)	7
Other/unid. <i>Carcharhinus</i> sp.	2
<i>Isurus</i> sp. (mako sharks)	<0.5
<i>Prionace glauca</i> (blue shark)	<0.5
<i>Sphyrna</i> sp. (hammerhead sharks)	3
Unidentified/other sp.	8

The shark species with the greatest level of bycatch in the tuna purse-seine fishery in the EPO is the silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*).

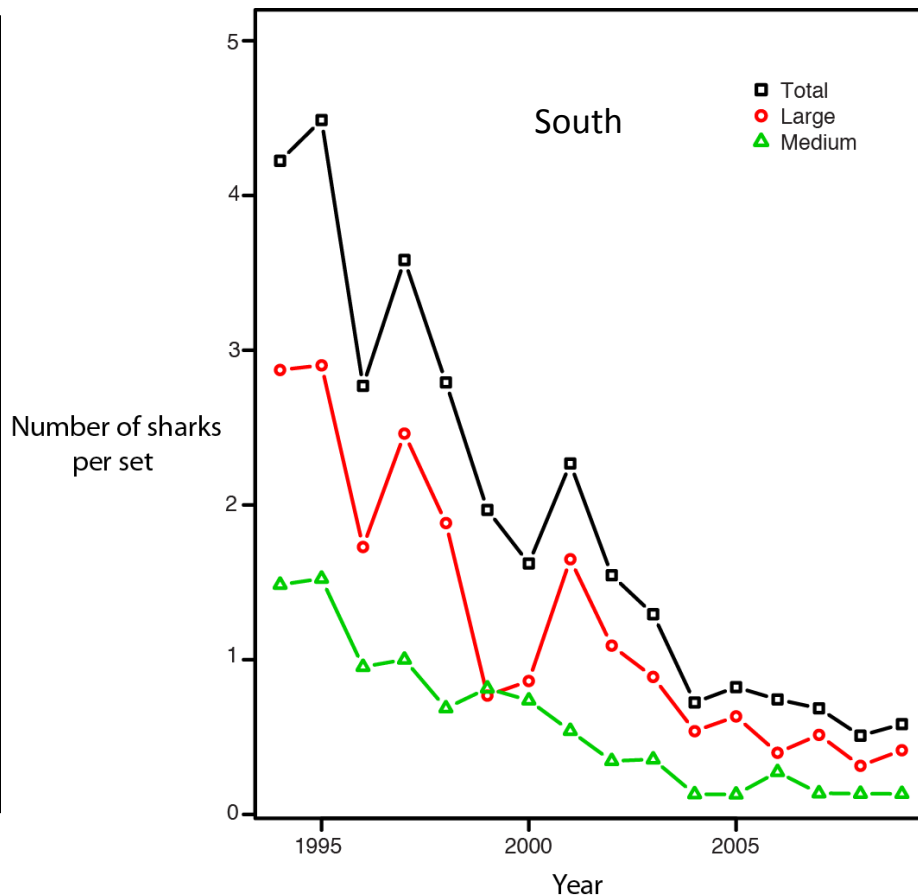
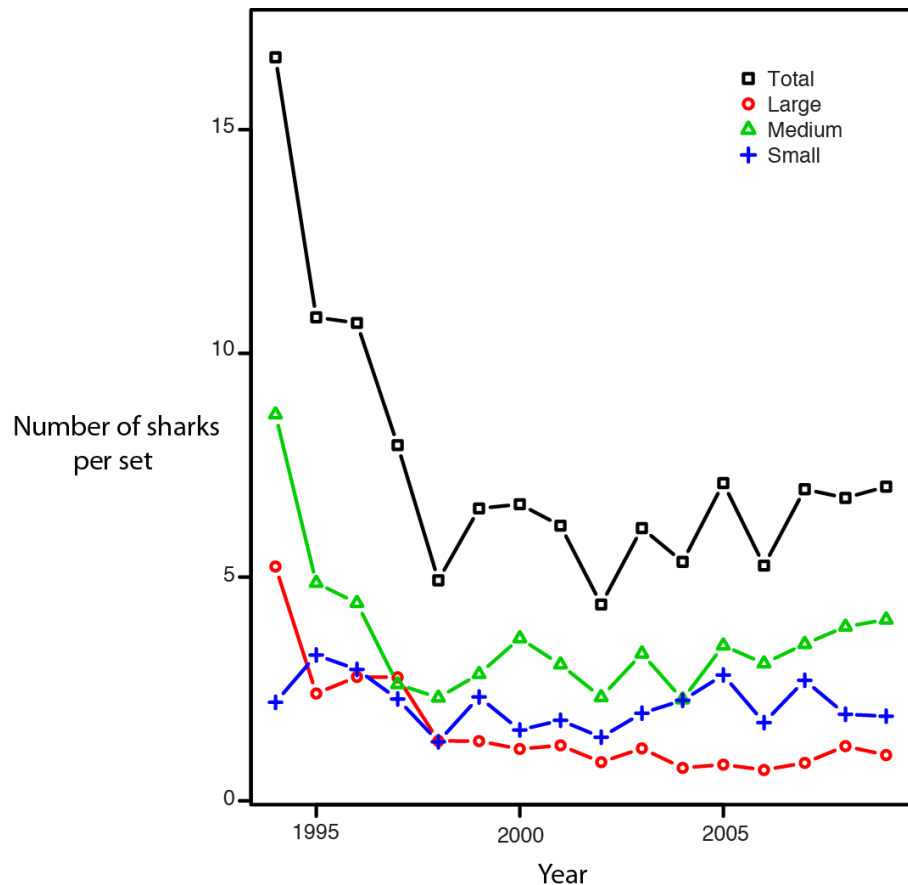




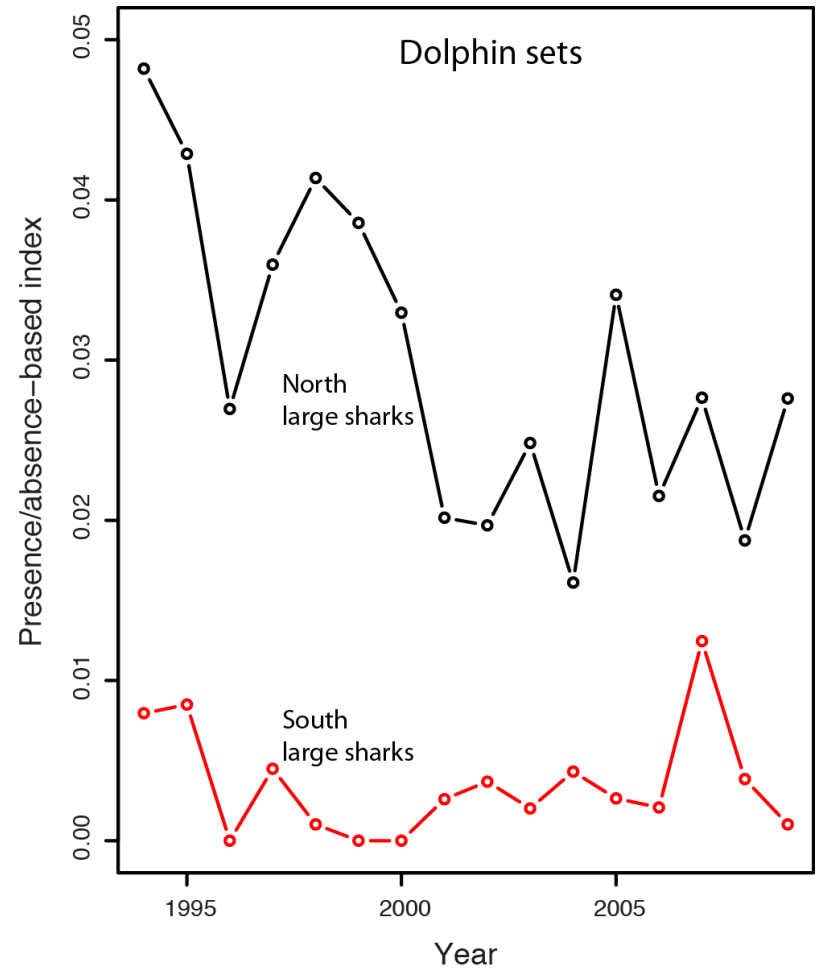
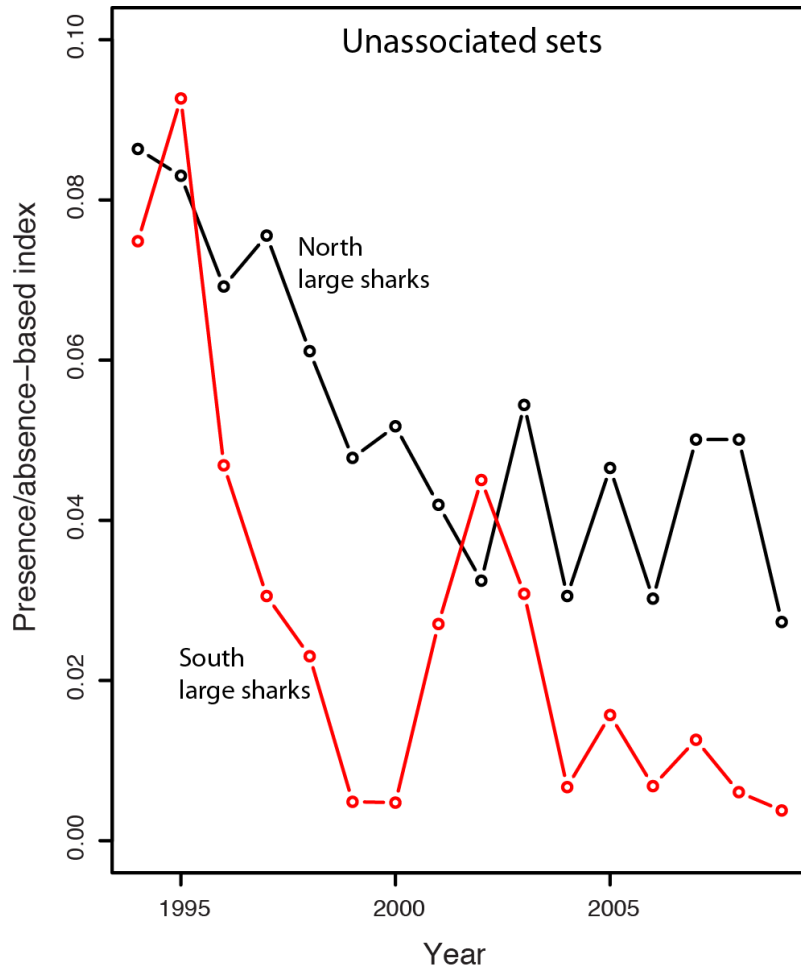




Standardized bycatch-per-set floating-object sets



Presence-absence index for large sharks



Summary

- North of the equator:
 - Bycatch-per-set of small sharks has been essentially constant.
 - Bycatch-per-set of medium sharks has started to increase slightly after an initial decrease.
 - Bycatch-per-set of large sharks has leveled off after an initial decrease.
- South of the equator:
 - Bycatch-per-set of small sharks has been and continues to be low.
 - Bycatch-per-set of medium sharks has leveled off after an initial decrease, whereas the bycatch rate of large sharks continues to decrease.
- An assessment may provide insights into the mechanisms behind these patterns, and is necessary to evaluate the overall effectiveness of mitigation and stock rebuilding efforts.

